

756 Ossington Avenue
Unit 6
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 3T9

September 12, 1992

Minutes of Ontario Region Presidents' Meeting

Present: Flurette Osbourne - Hamilton Chapter representative and National Vice President, Jocelyn McVey - Durham, Gwen Jenkins - London, Nollie Herbert - North York, Janet Lambert - Scarborough, Charis Newton - Toronto, Freddie Douglas - Mississauga, Silverlin Holt - Brampton

Agenda

Courtesies

Introductions - Chapters
Minutes of the last meeting
Marion Boyd Agenda (Minister of Status of Women)
Kay Livingston Luncheon
Report from Charis Newton
Any other business

The Ontario Representative, P. Jordan, left for another meeting and Betty-Ann Craig, the alternate Regional Representative chaired the meeting.

Introductions and Chapter Reports

Hamilton Chapter - Flurette Osbourne

The Hamilton chapter is in a state of limbo. Officer positions are not popular but election dates will be decided within the month.

Durham Chapter - Jocelyn McVey

Jocelyn McVey has been the new president since May. She wants to have a background on and obtain previous minutes from the region. The Durham chapter hopes to do some fund raising. Much Music will host a dance for them in this regard and a bazaar is planned for some time in November. Locations for these events are still to be finalized. The chapter will get an opportunity to appear on Cable 10 on September 29, 1992 to introduce the chapter to the community.

London Chapter - Gwen Jenkins

Gwen Jenkins has been officially elected as president. Before this she acted in the capacity of president at the request of the chapter members. Members plan to hold a meeting with the London Police and to invite Alvin Curling as special guest on Saturday, November 14th, 1992.

Fund raising events planned for this year are: a fashion and talent show and a luncheon at the end of the year at which scholarships will be awarded.

The London chapter is encouraging increased membership.

Gwen needs copies of other chapters' by-laws to help them formulate theirs.

North York Chapter - Nollie Herbert

Nollie Herbert has been the North York chapter president since April. The North York Chapter hosted a Mother's Day banquet in May at which five young women were awarded certificates of achievement. On Sunday, September 13 a tea will be held in the memory of the late Jennie Burnett, a former member of the chapter.

Increased membership is also desired in the NY Chapter. The goal is an increase of 25 members this year.

Scarborough Chapter - Janet Lambert

The Scarborough Chapter will resume meetings on September 22nd. The chapter is seeking a venue in a community setting to hold its meetings.

Elections will be held in January. This chapter has had a very successful year (held many workshops). The highlight of their success was a craft bazaar. The chapter made donations to a number of students to enable them to attend summer camp.

Toronto Chapter - Charis Newton

"Children are not the Problem" the anti-racist child care strategies film is being distributed by Full Frame Video. The Youth Leadership Program is coming into one year. The Moms and Tots program is about to be launched late September. The Barsha Kelly CariCan Co-op will be built by 1993 - the ground breaking ceremony was held earlier this year. Membership is a major issue with the Toronto Chapter.

Mississauga Chapter - Freddie Douglas

This chapter has 50 members. The chapter hosted the Suffering in Silence workshop - a workshop on violence against women in the Black community - recently. This workshop was funded by the Ministry of Health. The chapter also applied for funding for a youth program (race and policing).

Several committees met over the summer. One result of these meetings was the submission of a proposal for a tutorial program at T. L. Kennedy School. The chapter expects to recruit volunteers among members and friends of the Congress to offer the tutorials.

The Heritage Program review and advertisement was successful. Enid Lee spoke. Four scholarships were offered to students this year.

Brampton Chapter - Silverlin Holt

The chapter hopes to resume its tutorial program for students by late September.

The National - Flurette Osbourne

The national has obtained a \$40,000 grant to continue the organizational review. Five regional reviews are planned for 1992 - 1993.

The biennial conference may be held in Winnipeg again this year because of the bids received. Ontario region agreed to put in a late bid to see if the conference could be held in Toronto instead.

The National is in the process of applying for a grant from the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Citizenship for anti-racism training of educators.

With regard to the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, the Congress, NOIVMWC, DAWN and NAC withdrew their support for the panel and its work. At issue was the lack of representation of disabled women and racial minority women on the panel.

Report from Charis Newton

The attached affidavit was read to the presidents in attendance at the meeting and it was unanimously supported by them.

Marion Boyd Meeting

It was suggested earlier this year that the Ontario Regions meet with Marion Boyd, Minister of Status of Women responsible for the Ontario Women's Directorate. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., September 16 at 2 Carlton Street, 12th Floor.

Agenda for the Marion Boyd Meeting

1. The Grant Process
2. Employment at OWD
3. Employment Equity Bill '79
4. Safe housing for women and children
5. Adequate and available treatment programs for victims of abuse
6. Changes in drug benefits and any effects on the standard of living of seniors, who are mainly women
7. Greater exemptions and tax benefits for working single parents.

Kay Livingston Luncheon

Date: The suggested dates are November 21st or 7th.

Theme: The theme is: "Affirming Each Other"

Place: The place and menu are to be determined.

Speakers: The suggested speakers are:

Enid Lee

Pat Francis - preacher non-denominational

_____ Flurette is to add another name

Entertainment: Cory Livingston Trio
MC Patsy Jordan or Betty Ann Craig

The Criteria for recipients is to be forwarded to chapters by Wednesday, September 16th, 1992.

Any Other Business

Charitable Status

The idea of a charitable status has been abandoned. The nation body reasons that if charitable status is obtained, the Congress would be unable to continue with its advocacy and lobby work because of the limitations which charitable status will place on the organization. The national proposes to set up a foundation. This proposal will be discussed at the next conference.

Karl Fuller's Letter to the press re. Black Youths and the C.N.E. closing day

A letter is to be sent to JCA. The Region is to write to Karl Fuller, President of J.C.A. regarding the contents of his letter and what it implies about Black Youth. An apology is necessary and should be printed in Toronto Star and Share. Mississauga chapter will send a letter and the Region is requested to do so also.

Stephen Lewis Report

Comments from Region: "we have said these things before, excellent report, the Ontario Region needs to follow up on the time lines Stephen Lewis gave".

There is the problem of the implementation of this report by ministry(ies) without consultation with the Black community.

Appointments

Freddie Douglas and Sybil Garrick were appointed to the Police Services Board of Enquiry. The meeting congratulated these two women on their achievement and offered them support in their new roles.

Nora Saunders - the Chair of the Police Services Board will speak to any group when requested.

The Regional Representative requests that chapters submit their year-end report for 1992 and their projections for 1993. Deadline... next meeting 9:00 a.m., December 5, 1992 at 756 Ossington Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES ARE SOURCES FOR GRANTS

Regional Offices - Department of Secretary of State (Fed.)

- (a) Women's Program
- (b) Multiculturalism

Ministry of Citizenship (Provincial) - Anti Racism Secretariat

Ministry of Solicitor General (Provincial)

Ontario Women's Directorate (Provincial)

Metro Toronto (Municipal)

Copy

No. Re 1628/92

ONTARIO COURT (GENERAL DIVISION)

IN THE MATTER OF an Inquest into the Death of Lester Donaldson,

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by the Black Action Defence Committee pursuant to the provisions of the Judicial Review Procedure Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. J. 1.

B E T W E E N :

BLACK ACTION DEFENCE COMMITTEE

Applicant

- and -

Dr. ROBERT HUXTER

Respondent

A F F I D A V I T

I, CHARIS NEWTON, President of the Congress of Black Women, Toronto Chapter, in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am representing The Congress of Black Women Of Canada, Ontario Region.

2. The Congress of Black Women of Canada, is a non-profit organization which was established twenty years ago. The Congress consists of provincial representatives across Canada and local Chapters within each province. The Ontario region consists of 11 chapters and approximately 400 members.

3. The Congress of Black Women of Canada is concerned about the issue of racism and does educational work and advocacy work in that area.

4. For example, the Toronto Chapter successfully worked with the nurses at Northwestern Hospital in their human rights case and the same chapter has produced a documentary film on anti-racist child care strategies called "Children are not the Problem".

5. The Congress is called upon from time to time to present workshops in the area of anti-racism.

6. We have been following the situation of Lester Donaldson and the events that led to his death and we have also witnessed and supported the birth of the Black Action Defence Committee around this issue.

7. We recognize the Black Action Defence Committee to be the experts in the area of racism in the criminal justice system and when we are approached to do workshops in this area, we make referrals to the Black Action Defence Committee.

8. We feel that racism played a major role in the death of Lester Donaldson and that it would be an issue or an element of investigation at the Coroner's Inquest.

9. We recommend the Black Action Defence Committee as the organization most qualified and appropriate to speak at the Inquest on this issue.

10. This affidavit is made in support of the application of the Black Action Defence Committee for standing at the Inquest into the death of Lester Donaldson.

SWORN BEFORE ME at)
the City of Toronto)
in the Municipality of)
Metropolitan Toronto)
September ,1992)

CHARIS NEWTON

A COMMISSIONER, etc.